AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-15 (CANCELLED)

16. (NEW) A method for the qualitative and quantitative determination of the multimers of multimer-forming therapeutic proteins by gel electrophoresis, wherein a sample containing von Willebrand factor or fibrinogen is fractionated by submarine electrophoresis using a continuous, homogeneous agarose gel free of lumps, and wherein the multimer bands are visualized immunochemically after a Western blot analysis by an immunochemical method chosen from a specific antibody-enzyme conjugate on the blotting membrane and a suitable dye in the gel.

17. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the suitable dye is a blue stain.

18. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the multimer-forming therapeutic protein is fibrinogen.

19. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the multimer-forming therapeutic protein is von Willebrand factor.

20. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein an agarose gel with an agarose concentration of from 1.6% to 3% by weight is employed for separating the fibrinogen multimers.

21. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein an agarose gel with an agarose concentration of from 1.8% to 2.4% by weight is employed for separating the fibrinogen multimers.

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22. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein an agarose gel with an agarose concentration of from 0.7% to 1.8% by weight is employed for separating the von Willebrand factor multimers.

23. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein an agarose gel with an agarose concentration of from 0.8% to 1.2% by weight is employed for separating the von Willebrand factor multimers.

24. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the gel electrophoresis is carried out at temperatures between 6° C and 14° C.

25. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the gel electrophoresis is carried out at temperatures between 8° C and 12° C.

26. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein an immunostain is employed for staining the multimer bands on the blotting membrane.

27. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein Coomassie blue dye is employed for blue staining of the multimer bands in the gel.

28. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein an agarose gel on a backing sheet is employed for the blue staining in the gel.

29. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the agarose gel employed for immunostaining on the blotting membrane is chosen from an agarose gel without a backing sheet or an agarose gel with the backing sheet removed before the blotting process.

30. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the bands are quantified by densitometry.

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31. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the bands are quantified after blue staining of the gel.

32. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the bands are quantified after immunostaining of the blotting membrane.

33. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the gel is preserved by lamination after the staining.

34. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the blotting membrane is preserved by lamination after the immunostaining.

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